



NORRISTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent
Administration Building
401 N. Whitehall Rd.
Norristown, PA 19403

Christopher T. Dormer, Superintendent of Schools

June 24, 2020

Dear Norristown Area School District Community:

As Pennsylvania has been moving through its phased reopening, guidance on the reopening of schools and restarting of certain school functions has begun to be released. On June 3, 2020, school districts received preliminary guidelines on the Phased Reopening of Schools to be used for planning for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. On June 10, 2020, preliminary guidance on resuming youth athletics was released. One of the requirements of this guidance is the approval of an Athletic Health and Safety plan by each district's school board. Approval of the plan is needed to resume voluntary summer workouts, which is the first in a series of activities that occur as a normal and permissible part of interscholastic athletics.

On Monday, June 22, 2020, a draft Athletic Health and Safety plan was presented to the Board during its Regular Voting Meeting. There was a lengthy discussion on the presented draft, with the Board deciding to table approval of the plan. The Board and administration is firmly committed to ensuring the health and safety of students and staff to the greatest extent possible throughout the phased reopening of schools. It was agreed that it would be in the best interest of health and safety to not resume activities the Monday immediately following a holiday weekend, when there would be an increased risk of exposure as more people would likely be in congregate settings due to the 4th of July holiday. The Board also requested that the administration increase details of the plan. Given that our community has the highest number of cases of COVID-19 in Montgomery County, we feel it is best to proceed with an abundance of caution. There is much that can be learned from those who will resume voluntary summer workouts over the next two weeks. We do not want to rush and end up in a situation like Clemson football, which had 14 confirmed cases within the initial days of resuming organized activities.

The Board and administration recognize the value of allowing and providing voluntary workouts for our student athletes. With feedback from the Board, a revised and expanded planning process is underway. The goal is to present an updated Athletic Health and Safety plan at the July 15 Facilities and Finance Committee meeting. We appreciate everyone's understanding and patience as we prioritize health and safety as we begin the long and measured process to reopen our schools, activities, and all district operations.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Dormer
Superintendent of Schools